

Application No. 10/014,165
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus
comprising:

a plurality of dismountable units necessary for image
forming;

5 a first storage section which stores an amount of use of
each unit;

a second storage section which stores, for each said unit, a
respective condition which enables ~~each the~~ unit to execute an
optimal image forming operation corresponding to the amount of
10 use of ~~each the~~ unit; and

a control section which reads, for each said unit, the
respective condition from the second storage section, which
enables ~~said each the~~ unit to execute the optimal image forming
operation, based on ~~the basis of~~ the amount of use of ~~said each~~
15 the unit stored in the first storage section, thereby operating
~~said each the~~ unit under the respective read condition.

2. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus
according to claim 1, further comprising a detection section
which detects whether or not ~~said each unit~~ one of the units is
new or old, and wherein when the detection section has detected
5 that any one of the units is new, the control section resets the

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amount of use of the one said unit stored in the first storage section and then reads the condition which enables the one said each unit to execute the optimal image forming operation. ~~when the detection section has detected that said each unit is new.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming ~~is~~ comprises a drum unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming ~~is~~ comprises a charging unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming ~~is~~ comprises a developing unit.

6. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the amount of use of said each unit is ~~the~~ a number of printed sheets of paper.

7. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the one said~~ first storage section is provided in ~~said~~ each said unit.

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8. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ one said second storage section is provided in ~~said~~ each said unit.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, comprising:

receiving an instruction to form an image;

reading an amount of use of each of a plurality of units
5 from a first storage section which stores the amount of use of
~~said~~ each said unit;

reading, for each said unit, a respective condition [[,]]
set to enable ~~said each~~ the unit to execute an optimal image
forming operation, from a second storage section which stores ~~the~~
10 condition respective conditions set to enable ~~said~~ each said unit
to execute the optimal image forming operation, based on ~~the~~
~~basis of~~ the amount of use of ~~said each~~ the unit read from the
first storage section.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising
resetting the amount of use stored in the first storage section
for one ~~said each~~ unit when a detection section which detects
5 whether or not ~~said each~~ said unit is new has detected that the
one ~~said each~~ unit is ~~a~~ new ~~one~~.

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11. (Currently Amended) The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming operation ~~is~~ comprises a drum unit.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming operation ~~is~~ comprises a charging unit.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein one of the units necessary for the image forming operation ~~is~~ comprises a developing unit.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the amount of use of said each unit is ~~the~~ a number of printed sheets of paper.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ one said first storage section is provided in ~~said~~ each said unit.

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16. (Currently Amended) The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ one said second storage section is provided in ~~said~~ each said unit.

17. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a life span of each unit is different.

18. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one said first storage section and one said second storage section are provided in each unit.

19. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein a life span of each unit is different.

20. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein one said first storage section and one said second storage section are provided in each unit.